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FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 11th September, 1899. The president, Mr. J. Shephard, occupied the chair, and about 60 members and visitors were present.

REPORTS.

The president reported that a practical evening for the preparation and examination of Blood Films had been held at the Rev. W. Fielder's laboratory on Monday, 28th August, when a most interesting and instructive evening was spent.

A report of the botanical results of the excursion to Cheltenham on Saturday, 19th August, was read by the leader, Mr. C. French, jun., who stated that a very interesting afternoon had been spent. Some twelve varieties of orchids had been noted in bloom, besides numerous other plants. On one of the orchids a parasitic fungus new to science had been found. Mr. J. Stickland stated that those members interested in pond life had also experienced a profitable outing, as among other captures were the males of the rotifers *Lacinularia pedunculata* and *L. elliptica*, which are somewhat uncommon.

A report of the visit to the Botanical Gardens on Saturday, 9th September, was read by Mr. F. G. A. Barnard, who stated that, owing to the inclement weather, attention was principally devoted to the collections in the Economic Museum and the System House, which were kindly explained by Mr. J. Baker, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. F. Pitcher.

ELECTION OF MEMBER.

On a ballot being taken, Mr. C. L. Barrett, Dendy-street, Brighton, was duly elected a member of the Club.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

The postponed discussion on the question of protection to native birds was resumed, when a letter was read from Mr. F. C. Christy advocating the extension of the close season for all water-fowl from the 21st December to at least the middle of March. Several members spoke on the subject, but it was considered hopeless to ask for the inclusion of the Christmas holidays in the close season, and that the only course open was to endeavour to have the present Act more strictly enforced.

The president drew attention to a copy of a new work by Mr. R. Hall, entitled "A Key to the Birds of Australia and Tas-